

BRIDGE WITHOUT THINKING

How to avoid wasting energy

Bridge Without Thinking

♠5432 ♥432 ♦432 ♣432

North-South vulnerable, dealer West

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Double	Pass	?

What call do you make?

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- Do we have a rule for this situation?
 - Specific rule – bid cheapest suit
 - Partnership philosophy – takeout doubles are for takeout
 - General principle – lie about length or lie about strength
- Has this happened before?
 - What did we do last time?
 - Did it work?
- Can I take a view?
 - Will partner be upset?
 - Will the team be upset?

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North-South vulnerable, dealer West

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Double	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	

What call do you make?

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Absence of method

England v Poland, World Junior Championships 2012.

♠A32	♠754	(1 ♠)	Double	2 ♥
♥AK76	♥J1043		2 ♠	3 ♥
♦AK5	♦864		4 ♣	5 ♣
♣AJ4	♣Q65		6 ♥	Pass

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Adding a method

When partner doubles, then cue-bids, our next-suit bid is a negative (**HADAC** – Herbert After Double And Cuebid)

♠A32	♠754	(1 ♠)	Double	2 ♥
♥AK76	♥J1043		2 ♠	3 ♣
♦AK5	♦864		4 ♥	Pass
♣AJ4	♣Q65			

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Extending a method

Over partner's cuebid, 2NT just shows a stop in their suit and is otherwise consistent with a negative, e.g.

♠J1032 ♥432 ♦432 ♣432

Over partner's cuebid, a return cuebid shows values but no stop and no descriptive bid, e.g.

♠543 ♥J32 ♦432 ♣AQ32

HADAC questions

- What constitutes a “negative”?
 - A hand with about four working points is a “positive”, e.g. ♠9432 ♥43 ♦K10 ♣J9843 is worth treating as a positive after partner doubles and cue-bids.
- Does HADAC make a difference when responding to partner’s double?
 - Sometimes. Suppose you have a Yarborough with four low in both majors. After (1 ♦) Double (Pass), without HADAC it’s better to respond 1 ♠, so that you can bid 2 ♥ over partner’s 2 ♦ cuebid. With HADAC that 2 ♥ is an artificial negative, so start with 1♥, then bid 2 ♥ over 2 ♦, then if partner doesn’t pass you can perhaps introduce spades later.